



VEHICLE EQUIPMENT SAFETY COMMISSION

Regulation VESC-9

SAFE OPERATING CONDITION OF TRUCK
AND BUS TYPE TIRES

Approved March 1973

Suite 908
1030 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

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**SAFE OPERATING CONDITION OF TRUCK AND BUS
TYPE TIRES**

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MEMBERS—TRUCK AND BUS TIRE COMMITTEE

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and Motor Vehicles
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1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 This regulation embodies criteria for the safe operating condition of tires for highway use vehicles.

2. SCOPE:

- 2.1 This regulation is applicable to highway use vehicles using truck, bus and truck trailer type tires.

3. DEFINITIONS:

- 3.1 The term "highway use vehicle" as hereinafter referred to within this regulation shall include all vehicles with the exception of motorcycles, passenger cars, station wagons, special mobile equipment not designed to move with the normal flow of traffic, or other highway use vehicles using passenger car type tires.

- 3.2 The term "Commissioner" as hereinafter referred to within this regulation shall mean the appropriate state official or state agency responsible for promulgating rules and regulations governing vehicle equipment approval and/or the use of motor vehicles over the highways of the state.

4. APPLICATION:

- 4.1 This regulation applies to all "highway use vehicles" as herein defined in 3.1 of this regulation.

5. PROMULGATED RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- 5.1 The Commissioner shall promulgate rules setting forth requirements of safe operating condition, capable of being employed by a law enforcement officer for visual inspection of tires mounted on highway use vehicles as herein defined in 3.1, including visual comparison with simple measuring gauges. These rules shall include effects of tread wear and depth of tread and shall include and be based upon, to the extent that it is reasonable and practical, all provisions set forth in section 6 and 7 of this regulation.

- 5.2 No person shall drive, move or cause to be driven or moved, any highway use vehicle, as herein defined in 3.1, upon the highways of this state, unless such highway use vehicle is equipped with tires in safe operating condition in accordance with requirements approved by the Commissioner.

6. UNSAFE TIRES—FRONT WHEEL POSITIONS ON POWER UNITS ONLY:

6.1 It shall be considered unsafe if it has:

- a. Tread or sidewall cuts, cracks, snags or is damaged in such a manner so as to expose body cords.
- b. Any bump, bulge or separation.
- c. On vehicles with gross vehicle weight rating of over 10,000 pounds, any tire worn to a tread design depth of less than $4/32$ ($1/8$) of an inch measured in any two or more adjacent tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, at least one of which shall be at a point where the tread is thinnest, exclusive of tie bars and tread wear indicators. 8.
- d. On vehicles with gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, any tire worn to a tread design depth of less than $2/32$ ($1/16$) of an inch measured in any two or more adjacent tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, at least one of which shall be at a point where the tread is thinnest, exclusive of tie bars and tread wear indicators.
- e. Any tire which has been retreaded, recapped or regrooved, except that they are permissible when used on vehicles in intra-city (city and suburban) service or on vehicles 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or less. 9.
- f. A marking "not for highway use." or "for racing purposes only"; or "unsafe for highway use".
- g. Such other conditions or markings as may be reasonably demonstrated to render the tire unsafe for highway use.

7. UNSAFE TIRES—OTHER THAN FRONT WHEEL POSITIONS:

7.1 It shall be considered unsafe if it has:

- a. Tread or sidewall cuts, cracks, snags or is damaged in such a manner so as to expose body cords.
- b. Any bump, bulge or separation.
- c. Any tire worn to a tread design depth of less than $2/32$ ($1/16$) of an inch measured in any two or more adjacent tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, at least one of which shall be at a point where the tread is thinnest, exclusive of tie bars and tread wear indicators. 10.

- d. A marking "not for highway use", or "for racing purposes only"; or "unsafe for highway use".
- e. Such other conditions or markings as may be reasonably demonstrated to render the tire unsafe for highway use.
- f. Any regrooved tire, designed to be regrooved, which has been grooved to the fabric or worn to a tread design depth of less than $\frac{2}{32}$ ($\frac{1}{16}$) of an inch measured in any two or more adjacent tread grooves at three locations equally spaced around the circumference of the tire, at least one of which shall be at the point where the tread is thinnest.

8. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURE:

- 8.1 Any law enforcement officer, at any time, may stop a highway use vehicle as herein defined in 3.1, and inspect its tires for compliance with the provisions of this title, or of the rules promulgated hereunder. If the inspection discloses that a tire or tires of such vehicle are in violation, the officer may issue a citation for such violation, and such defect shall be corrected forthwith. Evidence of the correction of the existing defect may be required to be furnished to the commissioner.

9. SALE OF UNSAFE TIRES:

- 9.1 No person or organization shall sell or offer for sale, other than to a motor vehicle dealer, any highway use vehicle, as herein defined in 3.1 for use on the public highway of this state, unless the vehicle is equipped with tires that are in compliance with the rules and regulations as shall be promulgated by the commissioner under authority of Section 5.1 of this regulation. If the tires are not in compliance with such rules and regulations, the person or organization selling or offering to sell such vehicle shall cause (prior to sale) such tires to be removed from the vehicle and shall equip the vehicle with tires that are in compliance with such rules and regulations. No person, firm, corporation or organization shall sell or offer for sale, other than to a tire dealer, tires for highway use not in compliance with these rules and regulations.

10. PENALTIES:

- 10.1 Each failure to comply with the provisions of this regulation or the rules promulgated hereunder shall be punishable as provided by law.

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